

499 – And it's narrated from Anas(رضي الله عنه) that he said: The Messenger of Allāh(صلى الله عليه وسلم) said "Let not one of you wish for death because of a harm that afflicted you, and if you really must wish for it[i.e. death], then say: **"O Allāh keep me alive, if life is better for me, and make me die, if death is better for me"**" Agreed upon.

Sharh of Shaykh al-‘Allāmah Sulaymān ibn Nāsir al-‘Alwān(حفظه الله):

This report is agreed upon, al-Bukhārī(رحمه الله) said "ibn Salām(رحمه الله) narrated to us, he said we were informed by Ismā'īl ibn 'Aliyyāh(رحمه الله) from 'Abdūl 'Azīz ibn Suhayb(رحمه الله) from Anas ibn Mālik(رحمه الله)"

Imām Muslim(رحمه الله) said "ibn Harb(رحمه الله) narrated to us, he said Ismā'īl(رحمه الله) narrated to us, so he mentioned it[i.e. The Hadīth]" and Imām Ahmad(رحمه الله), al-Tirmidhī(رحمه الله), and al-Nasā'ī(رحمه الله), all of them narrated it from the chain of Ismā'īl(رحمه الله). And Imām Ahmad(رحمه الله) and al-Tayālasī(رحمه الله) narrated it from the chain of Shu'bāh(رحمه الله) from 'Abdūl 'Azīz ibn Suhayb(رحمه الله).

And Imām al-Bukhārī(رحمه الله), Muslim(رحمه الله), Ahmad(رحمه الله) and others narrated it from [several] chains from Thābit al-Bunānī(رحمه الله) from Anas ibn Mālik(رحمه الله).

The Prophet's saying: {Do not wish} "Lā Mutamannīyan", the "Lā" [i.e. Don't] here is a prohibition, and we have previously mentioned that prohibitions by principle, means that it's Harām, just like commands by principle, necessitates obligation, and we do not leave this principle except with proof, either an indication to divert the command from its obligation towards a recommendation, or a prohibition of Harām to being disliked, or another Hadīth is reported to affirm what was mentioned/intended.

The Prophet's saying: {Because of a harm that afflicted you} This a general description[the most common case], and even if there was no affliction of harm/distress, and he wished for death, he's prohibited from this, however for the most part upon the souls, is that it wishes for death when an affliction befalls it, like a sickness & similar to that, and you find some of the people have very little patience when a disaster strikes them in a difficult moment, they wish for death, and he does not know that it's possible if he dies in this moment, he would be from among the gravel of the hellfire.

And that is why the Messenger(صلى الله عليه وسلم) said "The best of you are those who live long and do good deeds", for indeed it's possible for the slave[of Allāh], if his life extended, that he would do more good[deeds], so there's no reason thereupon to wish for death, and it's likely that he would die upon a bad ending[if he wished for death], however it's incumbent upon the slave[of Allāh] to ask Allāh(سبحانه وتعالى) for success and correctness, and a good ending, for indeed the [most important] deeds are by their endings, but it has come through[i.e. been narrated from] some of the Sahābah that they used to wish for death in fear of al-Fitan[trials & tribulations], and this was made permissible by some of the Scholars, and this is a good way to look at it, because he's fearing for his religion and fears for his Islām,

however as for simply being afflicted with a sickness or a hardship/distress during the stressful times, like an accident or the death of a beloved one, and similar to that, so he wishes for death, then this is wrong, knowingly that some of the scholars went towards acting upon the apparent [meaning] of the Hadīth, so they said "It's not prescribed to wish for death, even for fear over your religion, and it's likely that Allāh will bring benefit to it[by this trial], as the Messenger(صلى الله عليه وسلم) said to Sa'd(رضي الله عنه) and the Hadīth is in the Sahīhayn {Some people may benefit from you & others may be harmed by you}"

So that's why the Messenger(صلى الله عليه وسلم) guided us towards having discipline in extremely stressful situations when the slave[of Allāh] is afflicted by the world, that he says "O Allāh keep me alive, if life is better for me, and make me die, if death is better for me ".